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appendices and fourteen pages of useful tables. The abundant illustrations, halftones, zinc etchings, and wood cuts are drawn from various sources.

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Stories New and Old. Selected, with Introductions, by HAMILTON WRIGHT MABIE. New York: Macmillan, 1908. Pp. 459. Illustrated. \$1.50.

Dr. Mabie is too wise to permit his collection of short stories to go forth without a preliminary warning to the critics. He does not contend that he has selected the best ten short stories, English and American, but rather that he has garnered ten short stories "primarily in the interest of good reading," and because the "stories present material for a comparison of the earlier and later styles, and for the study of the leading types or varieties of this form of writing." Notwithstanding these adroit excuses, the learned editor has much to answer for. His volume is a provoking book: provocative of astonishment at the kind of selections; of irritation at the smoothly written, but unsatisfactory and thin introductions to the several stories; and of regret that he has made, on the whole, a book that smacks of magazine padding.

The first place in the volume is given to Austin's little-known story entitled "Peter Rugg, the Missing Man," which was first published in the *New England Galaxy*, about 1824. Dickens' "Dr. Marigold's Prescriptions" is a more worthy inclusion, but it is reprinted in the book with "omission of passages not essential to its development." These omissions were written by Dickens, and for that reason, we think they should have been included. Various justifications are given by the editor for selecting Dr. Brown's "Rab and His Friends," Aldrich's "Quite So," Shorthouse's "The Marquise Jeanne Hyacinth St. Palaye," Allen's "King Solomon of Kentucky," Stevenson's "Will o' the Mill," and Wister's "The Game of the Nation." Hawthorn's "Ethan Brand," and Poe's "The Pit and the Pendulum" are included for reasons that are somewhat forced and insufficient. One purpose in the selecting of the short stories is everywhere evident: the purpose of getting contrasts in high light. A less evident purpose is apparent in selecting stories that have a touch of the spiritual element in them. Aside from these purposes the volume has no distinction. In fact, we cannot recall any selection of short stories so incomparably bad as these selections made by Dr. Mabie. Dr. Mabie's other books have always been a solace and a comfort, a repository of knowledge and instruction, but his book of short stories will, we are sure, add nothing to his reputation as a critic and a student.

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Lives of Great English Writers. By WALTER S. HINCHMAN AND FRANCIS B. GUMMERE. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1908. Pp. 569. Illustrated. \$1.50.

Of the many methods of teaching English literature three at least are well defined: the critical, the historical, and the biographical. A score of years ago—